UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Strengthening of Plant Protection Service (LAO/78/013)

Report of the Administrator*

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| Date of present approval: | May 1979 |
| Starting date of project activities: | July 1979 (planned) |
| Planned completion date: | June 1982 |
| To be executed by: | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| Government implementing agency: | Directorate of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation) |
| Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval: | $487 000 |
| Source of UNDP financing: | Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) |

## I. Background

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is primarily an agricultural country. About 90 per cent of the population lives in small rural communities. The major crop and the only staple food is rice. At present, about 40 per cent of total rice requirements are met through imports. The Government attaches highest priority to the rapid development of the agricultural sector and has directed all efforts to increase food production, particularly rice.

2. The Government has experienced serious difficulties, however, in achieving desired production targets, one major obstacle being the frequent outbreaks of pests and plant diseases. Assistance under the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) of FAO was made available in the form of expert advice, training and a limited supply of pesticides to meet the urgent situation in the northern provinces in 1976. Nevertheless, there remain several

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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serious gaps in the plant protection service of the country. The present project is thus a follow-up to the earlier FAO/TCP assistance.

## II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) develop a training programme and a nucleus of trained staff for the Lao plant protection services; (b) establish four regional plant protection service centres; and (c) develop an advisory service in plant protection, a simple practical surveillance programme, and a plant quarantine service. The project also aims at developing a planned and sound programme for plant protection, with emphasis on natural control factors, safe use of pesticides and environmental considerations.

## III. Inputs

4. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide through the Executing Agency: the services of a project co-ordinator and two field technicians and consultants; individual fellowships, study tours and in-service training; and equipment and supplies for demonstration.

5. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government will provide: the services of technical and administrative staff; land, buildings, and utilities; and miscellaneous local expenses.

## IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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|---|---|
| Personnel | 233 200 |
| Training | 44 800 |
| Equipment | 168 000 |
| Miscellaneous | 41 000 |
| | 487 000 |

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $330,400 in kind.

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